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Biblical Insights into the Etymology of the Chinese Language

China is the second most populated nation in the world and the second largest economy today (over taking Japan in end 2010) with 1.41 billion people. It has 4,500 years of human civilization and a rich ancient language that is pregnant with scriptural insights. C H Kang and Ethel Nelson in their book



"The Discovery of Genesis" demonstrated convincingly how the truths of Genesis were found in the Chinese language. It is no mere coincidence but the very knowledge of God that gives the ancient biblical truths found in this seminal oriental language.

Chinese New Year will be here soon. The purpose of this article is to explore some of the pictographic and ideographic types of Chinese characters in order to unlock what is believed to be a parallel account of the fascinating chronicle of beginnings. If the inventor of the written language were seeking to portray such words by pictographs or ideographs, it would be appropriate for him to find the earliest instance in oral tradition bearing an illustration. E.g.: the words bring forth, complete or finish would be expected to refer to the creation week; while first, perfect, beginning, and ancestor should apply to Adam and Eve; and warn, covet, naked, hide, thorn, and sorrow, are ideas first expressed in the temptation and fall of the original human pair.

There are reliable and convincing reasons to believe that the Chinese written language bears a testimony to pre-history with emerging details closely resembling the biblical account of the origin of beginnings in the OT portrayal. Some information contained by the ancient characters gives unexpected insights into the little-understood primeval world. The graphic symbols often seem to give specifications referring to the two worlds - either that of Adam and Eve in the mysterious preflood period, or to Noah and his family, the post-diluvian (post flood) common ancestors. Most remarkable of all is that the Chinese characters have survived intact through the intervening thousands of years with little modification in the meaning of their constituent parts, although the actual written forms have undergone stylistic changes (simple modified form). Today this remarkable language represents probably the one remaining pictographic and ideographic language in current use in the modern world. Below is some useful information concerning eight characters of the Chinese language and their origins.

Examples of Biblical Content in Chinese Characters

船 This Chinese character which means 'boat' has three parts. 舟 which means a sea going vessel. 八 Which means eight and 口, which means mouths or often denotes persons. This has accurate reference to the biblical account of the global flood day of Noah's time when only eight persons in Noah's family were sovereignly saved by God inside the Ark (Gen 6:9, 2 Pet 2:5) during the universal deluge. This is no mere coincidence.





造 Analyze carefully this word - create and you will see the relationship of the etymology of this word to the biblical creation account. God created man out of 土 which means dust or mud. 口 A mouth is used to denote a person, J the small downward stroke to the left indicates movement of life with breath of life by the Almighty Jehovah and 辶 means about to walk or come alive.

Genesis 2:7, "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

造 is indeed an apt description of the supernatural creation of man.

義 This word means righteousness. What is the ancient Chinese concept of righteousness? It is the 羊 goat or lamb over 我 which is

'me' (or 'l') that constitutes righteousness. The lamb of God (who is none other than Christ Himself) that takes away the sins of the world and to those whom God has called is imputed the righteousness of Christ. The prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 54:1-6



describes the suffering Servant as a lamb led to the slaughter on behalf of his people. Where did the ancients get this propitiatory concept of righteousness? There is only one source that is consistent with its meaning and root and that is the OT account of the vicarious atonement of our Savior Jesus Christ.



魔 This is the Chinese character for "tempter"(or diabolical) and it comprises 鬼 which is the 'devil' and he is hiding under a cover ightharpoonup r meaning of or between two trees 林. The devil waited for Eve at the forbidden tree which was in the Garden of Eden next to the tree of life. Eve partook of the forbidden fruit and sinned against God (Gen 3:1-6).

安 This is the word for peace. How can we have peace in the home, one may ask? Well, r represents a home or house (or family) and 女 refers to a lady or female. One female under one roof in the family is peace. In other words, a monogamous heterogeneous marriage as opposed to a polygamous or homogenous (or homosexual) marriage is the only way to true, lasting domestic happiness in the Lord. May we heed this divine injunction and have real lasting familial peace in the home today.





样 This is the word for auspicious used by Chinese people. A cross or 木 (Gal 3:13) was erected when Christ was nailed to it. This is the unblemished Lamb 羊 of God that takes away the sins of the world (Matt 1:21). With God, Christ is the source of prosperity for all. The cross of Calvary is the tree of eternal life and a glorious pattern of eternal life and everlasting example for all to behold.

好 This is the word "good" and it is made up of a female \pm and a male +. When God created Adam, he said it was not good that he should be alone and he created Eve, a helpmeet out of a rib of Adam and said it was very good (好) and put them together (Gen 2:8-20).



婪 This is the word for 'covetous' and the

character that made up the word comprises a 女, lady that is deciding between two trees 林. She is the first woman, Eve who was tempted and she coveted the fruit, consequently sinning against God.

Could all these be just happy coincidences? Kang & Wilson write (cf Discovery of Genesis, 21):

"It is supposed that the Chinese originally migrated from a site in Mesopotamia, for they show evidence of similarity to the later Bablo-Assyrian culture in arts, sciences and government. The approximate date of their origin, 2500 BC is surprisingly close to the strict chronological dating of the great event at the tower of Babel (Gen 11:1-7) which resulted in the division of all mankind into new linguistic groups and the consequent dispersion of peoples over the face of the earth (Gen 11). God at that time confused the mother tongue of the earth, and these people carried with them a newly acquired spoken language. They also must have had an accurate knowledge of historical events from the beginning of time, which they communicated by word of mouth. This should have been an accurate record, since the period spanned was only three patriarchal lifetimes - Adam to Methuselah to Shem (Gen 5:3-32; 10:25; 11:10-16). Because of the geographical isolation of China by mountain ranges, deserts and oceans, this race of people was sealed off to itself, free from outside influences, as it developed its own characteristic culture and language, not disturbed for over 2,000 years."

Wonder of wonders that led to the intriguing discovery and dissemination of truth found in the vehicle of the Chinese language even till this day.

Conclusion

Many thought that the Christian faith is a western religion. One is truly amazed and fascinated with the etymology of the ancient Chinese language that has a biblical origin and there are more than 400 words of such nature. When the Chinese, very early in their history as a separate people, found a need to communicate with a written language, a system of word-pictures was invented in keeping with the characteristic calligraphy of the ancient world. True to all primitive written language, these so-called pictographs were satisfactory for representing objects but carried limitations in expressing abstract concepts. The early graphic symbols, therefore, were combined in meaningful ways to convey ideas, called ideograms, and these "picture stories" of necessity had to contain common knowledge in order to be understood. It would have been only natural to use as a basis for some of the ideograms the history of the ancient beginnings of humanity with which all were familiar by oral tradition.

Consequently, the written Chinese language is composed of characters uniquely adapted to the possibility of containing the biblical account of Genesis" (cf Kang & Nelson, 34). May every avid reader be enlightened and spiritually revived by these fascinating and edifying insights, peradventure some may even come to the saving knowledge of Christ as personal Lord and Savior to the spiritual enrichment of our souls forever. Seek Christ of the Bible alone as your only true God and Savior with faith and repentance of sins today before it is too late and experience true soul prosperity (福), for with God only there is lasting prosperity in the new year of 2025。



Jack Sin



Church Cleaning Day 18 Jan 2025

Thank God for willing hearts and hands!





Praise God for the Bible devotion from Rev Philip Heng, sharing by Dr Samuel Gan and mutual encouragement & fellowship of 10 Pastors/Elders/Preachers/Friends.





To Testify the Gos



Dedicated to the Afflicted

A Poem of Spiritual Comfort & Strength

When a Christian is taken ill, He is to pray and obey God's will, Not murmuring nor complaining, But by faith, waiting and trusting.

When a Christian experiences pain, And his body and spirit grow faint, Yet, he knows that there is spiritual gain, When his soul is richly trained.

When a Christian is distressed, And he struggles to find real rest, God will be with him through the test, To trust Him for His will is the best.

As a Christian reflects on the demanding race, He recognises that God is his Dwelling Place And not forgetting His sufficient grace, With assuring hearts to God we praise.

Jack Sin

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee" (Isaiah 26:3)





THEME: DATES: WISE OR FOOLISH LIVING IN A SMARTPHONE ERA

10-13 June 2025

VENUE:

Forest City Marina Hotel, Johor, Malaysia.

SPEAKER : Rev Tan Eng Boo

CAMP FEES: Twin or Triple sharing \$ 370

All are welcome for a relaxing and insightful time of the meditation of the Word and family fun and bonding together

Register by 29 March 2025 with Dn Paul Tan at 97314733

Memory Verse

Eph 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

Announcements

- 1. Welcome to our Worship Service! If you are here for the first time, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave. Those who share the church vision to acquire a place of worship in due time, may designate your offerings to the SHBPC Church Building Fund
- 2. Pastor brings us God's Word this morning on *The Character of the Christian Church (Eph 2:13-22)*", the new quarterly study on the "Book of Ephesians: Serving Christ & Exalting the Sovereignty of God in the Church".
- Next Sunday is our 7th Anniversary Thanksgiving with Rev Philip Heng as our Guest Speaker on "*The Sacred Duties of the Church*". Kindly register with Dn Yue Kay by today as lunch will be catered.
- 4. Special Combined Sunday School Class today after the worship service on "The Evidence of Evil – a Problem for Atheists" by Dr Samuel Gan.
- Chinese Fellowship meets on every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. We have systematic studies on New Testament Foundations and the 10 Commandments. [Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode: 218178].
- 2025 Annual Church Camp will be held on Jun 10-13 at Forest City Marina Hotel, Johor, Malaysia on the theme "Wise or Foolish Living in a Smartphone Era" and guest speaker Rev Tan Eng Boo. Register by 29 Mar 2025 with Dn Paul at hp:97314733.
- 7. **No Prayer Meeting this Wed** as it is the first day of the Chinese New Year, a time for family reunions and commitments. You may continue to share your prayer items with Pastor. The prayer list is available in church.
- 8. Pray for:
 - **Chinese New Year**: Opportunities to share the Gospel with family and friends.
 - Medical: Kim Meng [fractured left wrist], John W's daughter [dialysis treatment], Simon (Devi's husband) [full recovery from fractured ribs due to a fall], Daniel Phang [back condition, high blood pressure & gout].
 - Salvation: Families of Dn Yue Kay, Dn Paul, Agnes & John W.
 - Church Camp Committee: Preparations for June 10-13 Camp at Forest City Marina Hotel.
- 9. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - Cheque payable to Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - Fund transfer to Church UOB Account 392-308-825-1
 - PayNow to Church UEN: T19SS0116FSOV

Kindly indicate **"Church Building Fund"** if you would like to designate towards this cause.